

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00583 140243Z

65

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5876

INFO /AMEMBASSY LISBON 6645

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0583

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UN, AO, WA, SF

SUBJ: UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA DISCUSSES ANGOLA AND
NAMIBIA

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. AT "URGENT" REQUEST OF UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA
MACBRIDE, MISOFF CALLED ON HIM AT UN EVENING FEBRUARY 13.
MACBRIDE, WHO IS LEAVING NEXT WEEK ON LENGTHY TRIP TO
EUROPE AND AFRICA, HAD TWO THINGS ON HIS MIND.

2. FIRST, MACBRIDE REITERATED FEARS EARLIER EXPRESSED TO
AMB MOYNIHAN CONCERNING US DESIRES FOR BASES IN ANGOLA AND
NAMIBIA (USUN 203 NOTAL). THIS TIME HE EMBELLISHED HIS
"FEARS" WITH THE THOUGHT THAT IN SENDING "US SPECIAL
FORCES" TO NAMIBIA TO DEFEND SOUTH AFRICA, THE US MIGHT BE
FORGETTING THAT NAMIBIA IS UN TERRITORY. HE KNEW, HE
SAID, SUCH FORCES WERE NOT YET THERE, BUT HE THOUGHT THEY
MIGHT WELL BE SENT. MISOFF STRONGLY, PATIENTLY, AND
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00583 140243Z

IN NAMIBIA OR ANGOLA AND HAS NO INTENTION OF SENDING FORCES TO EITHER COUNTRY. WE ARE NOT THE ONES TO ASK, MISOFF ADDED. INSTEAD, MACBRIDE SHOULD ASK SOVIETS AND CUBANS WHAT THEIR INTENTIONS MAY BE. MACBRIDE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE

MACBRIDE, MALIK TOLD HIM THAT SOVIET ADVISERS AND CUBAN FORCES WERE AT DISPOSAL OF MPLA AND THAT ALTHOUGH HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THEY WOULD STOP AT THE BORDER, HE, MALIK, "WAS NOT SURE". MACBRIDE SEEMED BEMUSED, CONJECTURING TO MISOFF OF POSSIBILITY THAT SWAPO, WHICH HAD JUST "RECOGNIZED" MPLA (USUN 553 NOTAL), MIGHT INVITE MPLA INTO NAMIBIA. MACBRIDE SAID THAT WERE MPLA THEN TO COME IN, AND PLANT UN FLAG ON NAMIBIA, "THIS SURELY WOULD BE WELCOMED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY".

3. MACBRIDE'S SECOND CONCERN INVOLVED ENCOURAGING US TO PRESSURE SOUTH AFRICA INTO AGREEING TO ATTEND AN OAU-SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA, WHICH CONFERENCE COULD BE ANNOUNCED AT FEBRUARY OAU MEETING IN ADDIS. MACBRIDE REASONS THAT SOLUTIONS TO ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA SHOULD BE REACHED "AS A PACKAGE." SOUTH AFRICA WOULD AGREE TO LIBERATION AND FREE ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA UNDER UN SUPERVISION AND CONTROL AND BOTH ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA, IN TURN, WOULD BECOME POLITICALLY NEUTRAL, WITH THE WITHDRAWAL NECESSARY OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS AND THE AGREEMENT NOT TO ALLOW FOREIGN BASES. ADDITIONALLY, SOUTH AFRICA, AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCES WOULD SIGN NON-AGRESSION TREATIES WITH MOZAMBIQUE, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, AND ANGOLA. MACBRIDE ALLUDED TO CERTAIN SECRET ANGOLAN TALKS NOW GOING ON IN LONDON AND SAID THAT RESULTS OF THESE TALKS ALSO COULD BE NNOUNCED AT SUCH A CONFERENCE. MISOFF ASKED MACBRIDE'S THOUGHTS ON MPLS'S REACTION TO SUCH A SCHEME. WOULD NAMIBIAN "LIBERATION" AND "FREE ELECTIONS" BE THE SAME TO THEM AS THEY WERE TO MACBRIDE? ON THIS, MACBRIDE WAS EVEN LESS SURE BUT, HE ASKED, WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

4. MISOFF ASSURED MACBRIDE THAT HIS REMARKS WOULD BE FAITHFULLY CONVEYED TO DEPARTMENT, AND MACBRIDE, IN TURN, EXPRESSED HIS CONTINUING APPRECIATION TO US FOR ITS UNDERSTANDING. HE SAID HE WOULD WELCOME OUR REACTION SOONEST
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00583 140243Z

TO HIS PROPOSAL FOR A "PACKAGE SOLUTION" ON ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA.

MOYNIHAN

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